

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 568

Approved by the Governor March 13, 1997

Introduced by Bruning, 3

AN ACT relating to the Telecommunications Relay System Act; to amend sections 86-1302 and 86-1304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1996; to provide vouchers for certain individuals; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 86-1302, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1996, is amended to read:

86-1302. The purpose of the Telecommunications Relay System Act is to provide a statewide telecommunications relay system and a statewide voucher program for ~~distribution~~ the provision of specialized telecommunications equipment for qualified low-income hearing-impaired or speech-impaired persons in Nebraska which enables them to communicate twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, with other persons who use conventional telephone systems.

Sec. 2. Section 86-1304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1996, is amended to read:

86-1304. There is hereby created the Nebraska Telecommunications Relay System Fund. The fund shall be used to provide a statewide telecommunications relay system and to administer a statewide voucher program to ~~distribute~~ provide specialized telecommunications equipment to qualified low-income hearing-impaired and speech-impaired persons in Nebraska.

Based upon the income levels of the eligible recipients and the price of the equipment, vouchers shall be issued by the program administrator to pay private vendors for all or part of the cost of the equipment. After purchase, the recipient is the owner of the equipment and responsible for enforcement of any warranties and repairs.

Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 3. Original sections 86-1302 and 86-1304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1996, are repealed.